THE PAINTING
VANISHES IN A
PUFF OF SMOKE

CAT'S EYE
I WILL BE COMING THE EVENING OF THE TENTH TO CLAIM "APHRODITE" IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NAKAOKA MUSEUM.

IT'S ON HER TARGET LIST!!
I UNDERSTAND THE CAT SENDING A CARD ABOUT "APHRODITE"
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
WHAT... DOES THIS MEAN?
AND SENDING OUT HIS COIN FOR THE SAME PAINTING!?
BUT... WHY IS THE RAT ACTING LIKE THE CAT...
THE RAT IS MESSING WITH US AGAIN...
HA HAHAHA YOU ALWAYS SAY SUCH FUNNY THINGS, HITOMI
HAS IT GOTTEN ON THE RAT'S NERVES...?
MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S THE YEAR OF THE RAT, BUT THE CAT IS GETTING ALL THE ATTENTION

HUH ...?
HMPH. I'M WITH THE CAT SPECIAL UNIT. WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE RAT!!
TOMORROW YOU'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE SAME PAINTING FROM TWO DIFFERENT BURGLARS.
BUT, POOR TOSHI!
I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTIAL TO THE RAT, BUT COMPARED WITH THE CAT HE'S SECOND RATE SECOND RATE!!
STAB!
WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM FOR OVER A YEAR. DO YOU THINK A MOLDY THIEF LIKE THAT COULD BEAT THE CAT!?
CALM DOWN WE KNOW HOW GOOD A THIEF THE RAT IS
MOLDY THIEF!! GIMME A BREAK!!
IN EUROPE THE RAT IS WRITTEN UP AS LUPIN THE SECOND...
SECOND RATE!
DUMB-ASS COP!!
I...SEE KNOCK 'EM DEAD...
WELL, I'M OFF TO A MEETING TO DISCUSS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AGAINST THE CAT!!
HA HA
SECOND RATE!
...THEY ARE TOTALLY MAKING FUN OF ME.
THESE DAYS OUR RAT TRAPS ARE EMPTY.
THE RATS IN OUR KITCHEN ARE TOPS AT STEALING OUR TABLE SCRAPS.

THE MANUSCRIPT IS A MESS!! GOOD LUCK READING IT!

I'M LOOKING AT THAT PAINTING "APHRODITE" AS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE THING!!
IT'S JUST MY WAY OF FOLLOWING UP ON MY HUNCH ABOUT HEINZ!!
OH, IT'S NOTHING SO CRAZY AS A COMPETITION
WELL? WHY IS MR LUPIN COMPETING WITH THE CAT?
ANYWAY... THIS TIME I'M NOT LETTING YOU HAVE IT. DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME.
.....
IT'S ONLY AN IMITATION OF A GREEK SCULPTURE
THAT PAINTING?
THAT PAINTING IS "ONLY" CONNECTED TO THE REASON YOUR DADDY CAN'T SHOW HIMSELF
PAT
ONLY ...!?
I WONDER
HMM
THAT IS, THE GENIUS OF THE RAT...!!
THE VICTORY SMOKE WILL BE MINE!!

BUT IF IT IS, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON WE CAN'T LET HIM HAVE THE PAINTING.
WHO KNOWS
IS IT TRUE?
THAT STUFF RAT BOY SAID AT LUNCH
EH?
BUT HIS INTERVENTION RAISES SOME INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES!!
LIKE SMOKE A VICTORY CIGA-RETTE!!
WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO DO ANYTHING BRAZEN

NGAHH...
特別
CLUNK
N... SKAGGH
GUOH....
SNAA
NGUOH
.....
I GUESS I IMAGINED IT?
H-HUH?
WHO'S THERE!?
HIS SLEEPY FACE IS RIDICULOUS

SUCH A CUTE FACE WHEN SLEEPING

IF IT WERE UP TO YOU, AI, HOW WOULD YOU GET NEAR THE TARGET?
WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ...
THAT'S RIGHT RAT BOY IS PROBABLY ONE OF THEM.
IF I COULD HIDE IN THE LEAVES OF A TREE, I'D HIDE THERE
EVEN THOUGH FORCE OF NUMBERS WON'T BE OF ANY USE
ABSOLUTELY! HE'S A SIMPLE BOY AFTER ALL
BUT THE SIMPLEST WOULD PROBABLY BE DISGUISING MYSELF AS ONE OF THE COPS
I WONDER WHERE THEY ARE...?
SOMEONE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT ME
AH-CHOO!!
IF THEY AREN'T DISGUISED AS COPS, THEY'RE PROBABLY HIDING UP THAT TREE...
PROBABLY HITOMI AND THE GANG!!
AH, IT IS A BIT COOL THIS EVENING
YOU COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING?

HMM
GAHH?
SO WHERE ARE THEY...
BUT WITH THIS NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN MAKE A MOVE FROM THERE...
THEY ARE...
AH
THERE HE IS SIS OVER THERE!!
ACTUALLY THERE... HA HA HA.
FOOLS! THAT'S NOT HOW PROFESSIONALS BEHAVE!! AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO USE THEM
TH- THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF ME BY REVEALING THEIR LOCATION TO ME
THEY'RE EVEN WAVING
IT LOOKS LIKE HE NOTICED US, TOO.
YAH OO
HE REALLY IS SIMPLE

HUH?
DETEC-TIVE UTSUMI !!

GOOD !!

SIR!! NOT AT THIS TIME
ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?

WHAT?
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THAT TREE OVER THERE.
WHAT IS IT?

UH!!

TH- THAT JERK!? HE TOLD MR. TOSHIO!!
AI! HIDE, QUICKLY!!

THERE IS INDEED SOMEONE THERE!!

BUT, DETECTIVE!!
PISSED!
A- ANYTHING HE MIGHT !!
THE RAT? I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO!!
ALL HANDS? JUST A MINUTE THE RAT IS STILL...
IT'S THE CAT!!
ALL HANDS NOT STATIONED IN THE EXHIBITION ROOM SURROUND THAT TREE IN THE GARDEN AT ONCE!!
AH... RIGHT, RIGHT!
HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE GOING TO THE EXHIBITION ROOM!!
SIR!!
FINE, FINE!! YOU GUYS JOIN THE ONES GUARDING THE PAINTING!!
EVERYONE ELSE WITH ME!
EVEN TOSHI IS DISRESPECTING ME
DAMN

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE DID SOMETHING UNDERHANDED LIKE THAT FOR A PAINTING!!
COME OUT, CAT! WE KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE!!
LEAVE THIS TO ME. YOU STAY HIDDEN.
UH!?
YOU'VE IMPROVED! GOOD FOR YOU, HONEY!
WAS IT LOVE THAT HELPED YOU FIND WHERE I WAS HIDING?
DUMBASS!! THAT WAS JUST FOR SHOW. THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE AFTER YOU!!
YOU SAY THAT BUT
RESIGN YOURSELF AND COME DOWN AT ONCE!!
THE CAT!!

SHE SURE'S MIGHTY COOPERATIVE.
ガクッ
I'M HERE.
HI!
FINE I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
HUH !?
WHY YOU.
WH-...
!!
TAKE ME!!

ARREST HER!! AT ONCE!
A...
AFTER ALL
I GUESS HE HASN'T IMPROVED
AH,,,,
UTSUMI !!
HAAA!
AH... HA HA...
GET HER!!
HUH? WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?
SURE IS NOISY OUTSIDE LIKE A PARTY
IT'S JUST
COULD THEY HAVE ARRESTED HER ALREADY?
HEH, HEH
UWAAA AAAH!!
UOOHH!!!

DAMN!! WON'T ANYONE GIVE ME CREDIT ...!?
I'M THE RAT!!
COUGH COUGH
IT'S... THE CAT!!
COUGH THE CAT...
I DON'T WANT TO INHALE TEAR GAS!
UWAH!
DAMN. WE LOST SIGHT OF THE CAT.
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE!! I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH WAY SHE TURNED!!
ASATANI HAVE YOU SEEN THE CAT.
UH-HUH
YOU CAME TO, UTSUMI
?
TERRIBLE NEWS!
THE RAT GOT THE PAINTING!!
THE... RAT!?

"APHRODITE" BELONGS TO ME!!
DID YOU SEE THAT, CAT'S EYE!?
HYAHH HA HA HA
THE VICTORY SMOKE IS MINE AFTER ALL.
KA-SING
FU...
AH.. HUHH HH
UH ...
I NEVER SMOKE ANY OTHER TIME SO I CAN SAVOR THIS CIGARETTE AFTER A BURGLARY IT'S THE BEST
DELICIOUS !!
PHEW !!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON...
EVERY-THING'S ...GOIN' FUZZY-LIKE.
THIS CIGA-RETTE...
S-SU RELY NOT
I DIDN'T IMAGINE IT
I... I SEE...
AND HOW DID YOU FIND ME!?
WH-WHEN DID... YOU...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY VISIT LAST NIGHT?
I PUT THIS HANDY TRACK-ING DEVICE
AND IN YOUR HAIR...
SNIP
YOU... SWITCHED OUT MY SMOKES...
YOUR CIGARETTE CONTAINS A KNOCKOUT DRUG!
HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER, RAT BOY!
!?
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!

I'LL BE TAKING THE PAINTING!!
WELL,
TER ...RI BLE ...
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES... I'LL BRING A GRIEV-ANCE AGAINST YOU...
J- JUST A SEC'...
IF I STAY HERE TILL MORNING I'LL CATCH A COLD
WAKE ME UP LATER.
MR. GENIUS THIEF!!
SURE YOU DID GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO STEAL THE PAINTING FOR US, AFTER ALL!!
GOWAHH
ZZZ
THANK YGUAHH
THINK NOTH-ING OF IT...

HEY..
WAKE UP...!!
HEY THERE !!
M' KAY
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?
EH?
RUP RUP
AHA... HITOMI-BABY...
YOU WOKE ME JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED.
RUTS
DOGEH!! WH-WH-WHUUTT!?
I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO SCREAM!! IT'S THE END OF THE LINE. GET OUT AT ONCE!!
HEH ?
END OF THE LINE ...?
MATSUDO! END OF THE LINE! MATSUDO!
SHEESH ...THE COPS THESE DAYS.
AIIEE... UHH... RAA...

CAT'S EYE